

Note to Readers

Dear Reader,

With this issue, we begin a new feature in the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*. The article, "Review of Instrumented Indentation," by Mark VanLandingham is the first in a series of Invited Reviews of key research areas at NIST. These review articles are intended primarily for a general technical audience, not only for practitioners in the subjects written about, but also to highlight the diversity and importance of NIST research for a wide audience. Instrumented indentation, for example, as discussed in Mark VanLandingham's leadoff review article, is an important method for studying the mechanical response of materials over a wide range of hardness. Because displacements measured with this technique are typically in the nanometer range, the results are particularly useful for materials applications in Nanotechnology, a field with great technical and economic potential.

The Board of Editors and the staff of the Journal have worked with the Laboratory Directors and their staffs to develop an initial series of topics that shows the diversity of NIST research activities. We are looking forward to review articles on such topics as radioactive carbon dating, international arrangements for comparing national measurement standards, and NIST research related to the automotive industry. If anyone has suggestions for additional topics for featured reviews, please feel free to contact me (email: tvty@nist.gov) or another member of the Board of Editors. We hope to hear from you.

Theodore Vorburger
Chief Editor